

NAME:

COURSE:

Through the Tunnel

Soon he was clear inside. He was in a small rock-bound hole filled with yellowish-grey water. The water was pushing him up against the roof. The roof was sharp and pained his back. He pulled himself along with his hands - fast, fast - and used his legs as **levers**. His head knocked against something; a sharp pain **dizzied** him. Fifty, fifty-one, fifty-two He was without light, and the water seemed to press upon him with the weight of rock. Seventy-one, seventy-two There was no **strain** on his lungs. He felt like an inflated balloon, his lungs were so light and easy, but his head was pulsing.

He was being continually pressed against the **sharp** roof, which felt **slimy** as well as sharp. Again he thought of octopuses, and wondered if the tunnel might be filled with weed that could tangle him. He gave himself a panicky, convulsive kick forward, ducked his head, and swam. His feet and hands moved freely, as if in open water. The hole must have widened out. He thought he must be swimming fast, and he was frightened of banging his head if the tunnel narrowed.

A hundred, a hundred and one. . . The water paled. Victory filled him. His lungs were beginning to hurt. A few more **strokes** and he would be out. He was counting wildly; he said a hundred and fifteen, and then, a long time later, a hundred and fifteen again. The water was a clear jewel-Breen all around him. Then he saw, above his head, a **crack** running up through the rock. Sunlight was falling through it, showing the clean dark rock of the tunnel, a single mussel shell, and darkness ahead.

QUESTIONS

1. Vocabulary. Match words to synonyms or definitions.

Lever	Dizzy	Strain	Sharp	Slimy	Stroke	Crack
						Pressure, pain , that causes damage.
						Able to cut, with a very thin edge.
						Liquid substance unpleasant to touch.
						A long and narrow space.
						A method of swimming, a particular swimming movement.

2. Answer the following questions according to the text or to the story if you cannot find the information in the text.

a. Did Jerry have any brothers or sisters?

b. How old was Jerry?

